

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W

-----084253 290133Z /73

R 271505Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUKAVU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 436

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUKAVU 064

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CG

SUBJECT: THE ELECTIONS IN KIVU

REF: BUKAVU 062

1. THE ELECTIONS IN KIVU FOR POLITICAL BUREAU WERE UNEVENTFUL. THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION SATURDAY AFTER THE DEATH OF MRS. MOBUTU WAS ANNOUNCED, AND SOME POLLING PLACES IN BUKAVU CLOSED FOR A FEW HOURS, BUT VOTING CONTINUED NORMALLY ON SUNDAY. BALLETING WAS DONE SMOOTHLY AND WITHOUT MUCH DELAY. AUTHORITIES ORDERED THAT ILLITERATE VOTERS BE ASSISTED BY THE WITNESS OF THEIR CHOICE IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE THE ABUSES THAT OCCURRED DURING THE FIRST WEEKEND'S BALLOTING.

2. THE RESULTS OF THE BUKAVU BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED HERE AND THE CONSENSUS IS THAT THE OFFICIAL RESULTS ARE FAIRLY ACCURATE. THOSE CANDIDATES MOST HIGHLY REGARDED DID THE BEST, AND THOSE KNOWN TO BE UNPOPULAR--EVEN THE RICH ONES--DID POORLY. ONE HEARS MANY REPORTS THAT VOTES WERE ADDED HERE AND SUBTRACTED THERE, AND CND HAS RECEIVED COMPLAINTS OF FRAUD FROM MANY DEFEATED CANDIDATES, BUT OVERALL THE ELECTION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN  
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REASONABLY HONEST.

3. GENERAL THE THREE WEEKENDS OF VOTING IN KIVU WENT MUCH BETTER THAN EXPECTED. DURING THE FIRST ROUND THE VOTING WAS BADLY ORGANIZED, THERE WERE LONG DELAYS, AND THERE WERE MANY ABUSES CONCERNING THE VOTES OF ILLITERATE VOTERS. BUT THE AUTHORITIES WORKED TO CORRECT THE PROBLEMS AND THE NEXT TWO ROUNDS WENT MUCH

BETTER. THERE HAS BEEN NO POPULAR OUTCRY AGAINST THE PUBLISHED RESULTS OF THE FIRST WEEK'S VOTING AND THE TWO LATER ELECTIONS WERE PROBABLY MORE HONEST DESPITE THE HIGHER STAKES INVOLVED. CERTAINLY THE AUTHORITIES MADE AN IMPRESSIVE EFFORT TO CORRECT ABUSES AS THEY OCCURRED AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY VOTE-FIXING ORDERED FROM ABOVE. DURING ALL ELECTIONS THERE WERE ONLY ISOLATED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AND MANY OF THESE WERE NON-POLITICAL.  
BOWEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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